UNITED NATIONS **A**

General Assembly

Distr.
LIMITED

A/AC.109/L.1835
11 July 1995

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON THE SITUATION WITH REGARD TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON THE GRANTING OF INDEPENDENCE TO COLONIAL COUNTRIES AND PEOPLES

ONE HUNDRED FIRST REPORT OF THE WORKING GROUP

Acting Chairman: Mr. Alimamy Pallo BANGURA (Sierra Leone)

1. The Working Group held its 141st meeting on 10 July 1995.

1. Question of holding a series of meetings away from Headquarters

2. In connection with the question of holding a series of meetings away from Headquarters, the Working Group recalled that the General Assembly, by paragraph 6 of its resolution 1654 (XVI) of 27 November 1961, had authorized the Special Committee to meet elsewhere than at United Nations Headquarters whenever and wherever such meetings might be required for the effective discharge of its functions. By paragraph 3 (9) of the programme of action for the full implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 2621 (XXV) of 12 October 1970, the Assembly had directed the Committee to continue to hold meetings away from Headquarters as appropriate.

3. The Working Group decided to recommend to the Special Committee that it should consider accepting such invitations as might be received in 1996 in connection with the above, and, when particulars of such meetings had become known, that the Committee should request the Secretary-General to seek the necessary budgetary provision in accordance with established procedure.

2. Representation at seminars, meetings and conferences of intergovernmental and other organizations

4. The Working Group proposed that the Special Committee recommend to the General Assembly that the Committee should continue to be represented at seminars, meetings and conferences organized by United Nations bodies and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations active in the field of decolonization. In keeping with its decision of 27 February 1995 (see A/AC.109/PV.1441), the Committee would authorize its Chairman to hold consultations, as appropriate, concerning its participation in those meetings, as well as the level of representation, when accepting invitations. In accordance with established practice, the Chairman would hold consultations with the Bureau members who, in turn, would consult with the members of the Committee from their respective regional groups. The Working Group also recommended that the General Assembly should make appropriate budgetary provisions to cover such activities in 1996.

3. Pattern of conferences

5. The Working Group noted that, during the year, the Special Committee had closely followed the guidelines set forth in the resolutions of the General Assembly on the pattern of conferences, in particular resolution 49/221 of 23 December 1994. By organizing its programme of work effectively, holding extensive consultations, working in informal sessions and streamlining the work of the Subcommittee on Small Territories, Petitions, Information and Assistance, which had a shorter session than in previous years, the Committee had been able to curtail considerably the number of its formal meetings. The Working Group recommended that the Special Committee should continue to make optimum and effective use of conference-servicing resources.

6. The Working Group decided to recommend that, taking into account the probable workload of the Special Committee for 1995, the Committee should consider holding its meetings in accordance with the following schedule:

(a) Plenary

February/June	As required
July	Up to 20 meetings (6-8 meetings a week)

(b) Subsidiary bodies

March/June	20 meetings (1-4 meetings a week)

7. It was understood that that programme would not preclude the holding of any ad hoc meetings that might be warranted and that the Special Committee might, in early 1996, review the scheduled meetings on the basis of any new developments. The Working Group recommended that, subject to any directives given by the General Assembly, the Special Committee, while fulfilling its mandate, should strive to keep its meetings to a minimum.

4. Control and limitation of documentation

8. The Working Group noted that, during the year, the Special Committee had taken further measures to control and limit its documentation in compliance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, in particular resolutions 34/50 of 23 November 1979, 39/68 of 13 December 1984 and 49/221 B of 23 December 1994. The Working Group recommended that, consistent with the goal of limiting documentation, the Special Committee should streamline its report to the General Assembly.

9. By its resolution 49/221 B, the General Assembly requested all bodies to submit, in accordance with existing procedures, to the Assembly at its fiftieth session, through the Committee on Conferences, justification for the continuation of the current entitlement of meeting records. Having reviewed the need for such records, the Working Group decided to recommend to the Special Committee to maintain its verbatim records.

5. Question of the list of Territories to which the Declaration is applicable

10. The Working Group decided to recommend that the Special Committee should continue consideration of the question at its next session, subject to any directives that the General Assembly might give at its fiftieth session.

6. International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism

11. Noting that the Plan of Action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism provided for the holding of seminars alternately in the Caribbean and the Pacific regions, the Working Group decided to recommend to the Special Committee that it should organize in 1996 a seminar in the Pacific region, to be attended by representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the region.

12. The Working Group further decided to recommend that the Special Committee should invite United Nations organs, agencies and institutions to apprise the Secretary-General of actions they have taken in implementation of General Assembly resolution 46/181 of 19 December 1991 relating to the Plan of Action and submit a report to the Assembly at its fifty-first session.

7. Participation of representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the work of the Special Committee

13. The Working Group decided to recommend that the participation of representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the work of the Special Committee at Headquarters, as recommended by the Plan of Action for the Internationcal Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, should continue to be facilitated through the reimbursement by the United Nations of the expenses relating to their participation under the terms of the guidelines amended by the Committee and approved by the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session. In

that regard, the Working Group decided to recommend that the Special Committee consider the guidelines at its plenary meetings with a view to amending them further, where appropriate.